

TOWN OF MANSFIELD
Solid Waste Advisory Committee
Minutes of the Meeting
November 10, 2011

Present: Knox (chair), Ames, Smith, Roberts, Coughlin, Walton (staff), Hultgren (staff)

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m.

The minutes of the September 8, 2011 meeting were accepted by Ames/Coughlin.

Walton reported that she is working with Milius to create a better link between the Middle School compost process and the school's garden. Vinton School has requested the help of a Three Rivers Community College sustainability certificate program intern who will work on developing the school gardens. Walton would like to have Vinton incorporate the use of the finished compost into their greenhouse and garden projects.

In researching transfer stations that do not accept cash, Walton learned from Brian Bartram, the Salisbury transfer station manager, that they use a Verifone Vx 570 terminal through Global Payments. In a typical month the Salisbury transfer station takes in about \$2,000 in credit card charges and pays roughly \$200 in credit card fees. They prefer using the internet to make transactions since it is faster and does not tie up the phone line. The City of Middletown also does not accept cash. They issue cash cards, which get recharged at the Town Hall. If the cash card does not have enough money to cover the transfer station expense, the resident is sent to the Town Hall to recharge the card. The City of Middletown's credit card system is issued through Citizen's Bank. Their interest charges are about 2%. It is recommended to have a maintenance contract for the terminal since it gets beat up at the transfer station. Walton received a quote from Global Payments that includes credit card fees of about 2%. Staff will continue to research cashless systems.

It was reported that the plastic bag recycling labels have been placed on the recycling containers at the grocery stores, however obscurely. Walton said that the container at Big Y was tucked away when she went to use it recently.

Walton circulated pictures showing the lack of recycling at Carriage House Apartments. She inspected the apartments twice. After the first inspection, she notified Carriage House, Celeron Square and Hunting Lodge Apartments that they needed to improve their recycling or they would face a citation. Walton inspected Carriage House a second time and found very poor recycling participation. She then spoke to the manager of Carriage House Apartments, discussing ways that participation might be improved. The committee recommended sending a letter to Carriage House notifying them that the citation is waived in return for implementing some strategies to improve participation.

It was reported that Eastbrook Mall will offer paper shredding in the spring 2012 around tax time. Once the Mall has decided on a date, Walton will publicize the shredding opportunity.

Hultgren stated that with the single-family trash collector receiving a 3% consumer price index increase, the cost for collecting trash in-yard is no longer covered by the charge to residents. The committee agreed to a fee increase for in-yard service that will cover the cost of collection. Staff will request the Town Council's approval.

Hultgren reported that the charge for brush was waived for the week after the October snowstorm. Walton

suggested that there should be a policy in place on how to handle these kinds of situations. Hultgren stated, that the policy is predicated on whether there is money in the solid waste fund.

Coughlin shared his concern about the impact of pet waste on ground water quality. He recommended that the Town adopts a pooper scooper law. Hultgren suggested that this might apply to a denser development such as the Storrs Center. Hultgren will find out if Storrs Center plans on allowing pets in the apartments. Staff was directed to find out from CCM what other communities do.

The committee decided on the following meeting dates for the 2012 calendar: January 12, March 8, May 10, July 12, September 13 and November 8.

Mansfield Recycles is now on Facebook. Walton is creating a page for the Town recycling program. Some suggestions of content include posting the Carriage House violation on the website, keeping freezers filled with ice to prevent food spoilage, proper disposal of pharmaceuticals.

Walton reported that the Storrs Center streetscape architects have selected a split trash and recycling container with one side for recycling and the other for trash.

Walton stated that a transition town training, hosted by the Mansfield Energy Education Team, is scheduled for January 7 & 8, 2012 in the Mansfield Town Hall.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 12, 2012.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Virginia Walton
Recycling/Refuse Coordinator